AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently Amended): A preformed porous ceramic carrier comprising an interconnected skeleton having pores the majority of which are in the range of from about 20 to about 800 micron, the carrier comprising block hydroxyapatite and having a density less than about 40% theoretical, the pores comprising a network of coalesced spheres the pores containing a second material deposited therein, the rate of release of the second material from the carrier being controlled by having the second material located within the pores in a degradable support.

39. (Previously Presented): A carrier according to Claim 38, wherein the skeleton is made up of scaffolding and struts.

40. (Previously Presented): A carrier according to Claim 38, wherein the skeleton has average pore sizes in the range of 20 to 800 micron.

41. (Previously Presented): A carrier according to Claim 40, wherein the average pore size is in the range of 60 to 800 micron.

42. (Previously Presented): A carrier according to Claim 38, wherein the pores were formed by sintering a precursor of the carrier under conditions which were below those required for full sintering.

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Previously Presented): A carrier according to Claim 38, wherein the density ranges from about 10% to about 30% of theoretical density.

45. (Previously Presented): A carrier according to Claim 38, wherein the pores contain any one or more of:- growth factors; antibiotics; vitamins; proteins; hormones; a chemotherapy agent; or a radio pacifying agent.

46. (Withdrawn): A carrier according to Claim 45, wherein the pores containing any or more of the following growth factors:

- a bone growth material
- FGF (fibroplast growth factor)
- IGF-I
- IGF-II
- PDGF (platelet derived growth factor)
- TGF-B (transforming growth factor)

- A bone forming or bone degrading cell
- BMP-Z
- HGH
- Concentrations of human derived growth factors.

47. (Withdrawn): A carrier according to Claim 45, wherein the chemotherapy agent is Cisplatin.

48. (Withdrawn): A carrier according to Claim 45, wherein the radio opacifying agent is strontium -67 or samarium -153.

49. (Previously Presented): A carrier according to Claim 45, wherein the agent is MTX.

50. (Withdrawn): A carrier according to Claim 38, wherein the pores contain one or more of Werner-type co-ordination complexes, macrocyclic complexes; metallocenes and sandwich complexes and organometallics.

51. (Cancelled)

52. (Cancelled)

53. (Currently Amended): A carrier according to Claim 38, wherein the degradable

support comprises a biodegradable support.

54. (Previously Presented): A carrier according to Claim 53, wherein the biodegradable support is a collagen or polymer.

55. (Currently Amended): A carrier according to Claim 53, wherein the support is poly (carboxyphenoxy) propane sebacic acid ~~(PCPP.SA)~~ (PCPP-SA) , precipitated calcium carbonate (PCC), (carboxyphenoxy) propane sebacic acid ~~(CPP.SA)~~ (CPP-SA), (fatty acid dimmer sebacic acid) poly trimethylene carbonate (FAD-SAPTMC), or poly(aspartic acid) (PAA).

56. (Previously Presented): A carrier according to Claim 38, wherein the pores contain layers of second material and degradable support, each layer being different from its neighbour or neighbours.

57. (Previously Presented): A carrier according to Claim 38, wherein the pores contain the degradable support in layers, arranged as alternating layers of layers free of the second material and of layers containing the second material, or by the concentration of second material across different layers of degradable support.

58. (Cancelled)

59. (Previously Presented): A carrier according to Claim 38, wherein the second material

is introduced into the pores by one or more of a centrifugation, immersion, vacuum impregnation or freeze drying technique.

60. (Previously Presented): A carrier according to Claim 38, wherein the exterior surface thereof has been coated with a biodegradable polymer containing a drug.

61. (Cancelled)

62. (Previously Presented): A carrier according to Claim 61, wherein the ceramic skeleton is partially or fully resorbable.

63. (Previously Presented): A carrier according to Claim 62, wherein the skeleton is formed of calcium phosphate hydroxyapatite.

64. (Currently Amended): A preformed porous ceramic carrier comprising an interconnected skeleton having pores the majority of which are in the range of from about 20 to about 1000 micron, the carrier having a density of less than about 40% theoretical, the pores comprising a network of coalesced spheres, the pores containing MTX, the rate of release of the MTX from the pores being controlled by having the ~~second material~~ MTX located within the pores in a degradable support.

65. (Previously Presented): A carrier according to Claim 64, wherein the MTX has been

loaded into the pores by centrifugation and/or freeze drying.

66. (Withdrawn): A preformed ceramic carrier comprising an interconnected skeleton having pores the majority of which are in the range of from about 20 to about 1000 micron, the carrier having a density of less than about 40% theoretical, the pores containing $Fe(phen)3[ClO_4]_2$ the rate of release of the $Fe(phen)3[ClO_4]_2$ being controlled.

67. (Withdrawn): A carrier according to Claim 66, wherein the $Fe(phen)3[ClO_4]_2$ has been loaded into the pores by vacuum impregnation.

68. (Withdrawn): A preformed porous ceramic carrier comprising an interconnected skeleton having pores the majority of which are in the range of from about 20 to about 1000 micron, the carrier having a density of less than about 40% theoretical, the pores containing $Fe(phen)3[ClO_4]_2$ and a glycolide, the rate of release of $Fe(phen)3[ClO_4]_2$.

69. (Withdrawn): A preformed porous ceramic carrier comprising an interconnected skeleton having pores the majority of which are in the range of from about 20 to about 1000 micron, the carrier having a density of les than about 40% theoretical, the pores containing Cisplatin, the rate of release of the Cisplatin being controlled.

70. (Withdrawn): A preformed porous ceramic carrier comprising an interconnected skeleton having pores the majority of which are in the range of from about 20 to about 1000

micron, the carrier having a density of less than about 40% theoretical, the pores containing Cisplatin and a glycolide, the rate of release of the Cisplatin and a glycolide being controlled.

71. (Withdrawn): A preformed porous ceramic comprising an interconnected skeleton having pores the majority of which are in the range of from about 20 to about 1000 micron, the carrier having a density of less than about 40% theoretical, the pores containing prednisolone, the rate of release of the prednisolone being controlled.

72. (Previously Presented): A carrier according to Claim 38, shaped for orthopaedic, maxillo-facial, or cranio-facial replacement.

73. (Previously Presented): A carrier according to Claim 38, shaped for location at an intramuscular site, interperitoneal site, subcutaneous site, central nervous system or occular site.

74. (Withdrawn): A carrier according to Claim 38, wherein the pores contain a general chemical or resin or petroleum derivative or explosives.